

community, his family, and the city he called home.

A native San Franciscan, he was born on October 2, 1935, and was a graduate of Yale University and Stanford Business School. He joined his family's firm, Wilbur-Ellis Co., in 1963, becoming its president and CEO in 1988 and chairman of the Board of Directors in 2000 after overseeing an extraordinary era of expansion. He served as a director of several San Francisco institutions, including Safeway Stores and the Chronicle Publishing Company.

Through his enthusiasm for the arts, Mr. Wilbur eloquently expressed his love for San Francisco. He served as a director of the San Francisco Opera, a trustee of the Asian Art Museum, and as the 15th president of the San Francisco Symphony, presiding over the inauguration of our beloved Davies Symphony Hall in 1980.

I offer my deepest sympathy to Judy, his beloved wife of 43 years, his children, Michael, Jennifer, Edward and Claire, his mother Dita, and his sisters Lolita and Mary. As they have lost a loved one, so the city of San Francisco has lost one of its most distinguished sons.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAPA EMERGENCY WOMEN'S SERVICES

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Napa Emergency Women's Services, commonly known as NEWS, of Napa, California, as it celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Since its inception, NEWS has played a vital role in protecting and assisting women and children throughout the Napa Valley who are the victims of domestic violence. A group of concerned citizens took the initiative to address the growing problem of domestic violence and created an emergency hotline in 1979. With the dedication, leadership, and compassion of these individuals, NEWS came to fruition on October 5, 1981.

NEWS is the only organization in the Napa Valley dedicated to helping women and children lead lives free of violence. Over the past 25 years, NEWS has grown and expanded to provide numerous services to people throughout Napa County, including emergency shelter, counseling, legal advocacy, and education outreach programs. All of these services play an important role in providing women and children with the guidance and support necessary to help them overcome the physical and psychological damage caused by domestic violence.

Mr. Speaker, the lifeblood of this organization is its devoted staff and volunteers who work day and night to ensure that women and children always have a safe place to seek shelter. These hardworking individuals have changed the lives of thousands of women and children in Napa County.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we take this time to thank and honor Napa Emergency Women's Services for its immeasurable service to Napa County. I congratulate NEWS on

their 25th Anniversary and wish them well as they continue their work to improve the lives of all Napa citizens.

A TRIBUTE TO LUTHER M. WRIGHT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Luther M. Wright, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the impressive accomplishments of this outstanding member of the community.

Luther M. Wright was born on June 2, 1942 in Louisa, Virginia, and he currently resides in Laurelton, New York.

Mr. Wright received his early education in New York City at P.S. 140. He graduated from Andrew Jackson High School and attended Queens College of the City University of New York from 1974–1977. He also attended the United States Coast Guard Engineer Program and received his license as a Chief Marine Engineer.

Mr. Wright served in the New York City Fire Department for 15 years as a Chief Engineer, retiring with 27 years of service. He served in the United States Army from 1964–1966 in active duty, as a reservist from 1969–1995 and participated in Desert Storm in 1991. Mr. Wright retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant. He is also a member of the Vulcan Society of the New York City Fire Department and Past President and Captain of the 231st Block Association.

Among his many community service projects, Mr. Wright was initiated into Tuscan Lodge No. 58 F&AM (PH) in 1978. He was elected to Worshipful Master of Tuscan Lodge No. 58 in 1986; Secretary of Tuscan Lodge No. 58 in 1987–present; Excellent High Priest of Mount Moriah Chapter No. 3 Holy Royal Arch Masons in June 2003; Ill. Commander in Chief of Long Island Consistory No. 61 AASR (PHA) in 2002 and 2003; Ill. Potentate of Abu-Bekr Temple No. 91 AEAOONMS (PHA) in 1994; and appointed Deputy of the Oasis for Abu-Bekr No. 91 in 2002, by Imperial Potentate William F. Crockett.

Additional leadership posts include: District Deputy Grand Master for the Second Masonic District from June 2001–2002; Worthy Patron in Fidelity Chapter No. 54 OES (PHA); District Deputy Grand Commander for the Second District; District Deputy Thrice Illustrious Master for the Royal & Select Masters and Assistant Recorder for the Grand Commandery Knights Templar State of New York.

Through these organizations, Mr. Wright has distributed toys and clothing to the needy children of East New York and Kings County Hospital, fed the homeless, and sponsored young children to attend Camp Eureka during the summers of 2002 and 2003.

Luther Wright is a member of the Good News Baptist Church of Hollis Queens, New York. He has been married to the beautiful Phyllis A. Wright for the past 34 years, and they have three grown children, all 4-year college graduates.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Luther Wright as he offers his talents

for the betterment of our local and national communities.

Mr. Speaker, Luther Wright's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes him most worthy of our recognition today.

HONORING AUDREY YVONNE WILLSON, WHOSE LIFE JOURNEY LED HER TO BECOME YVE-I RASTAFARI

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 30, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Audrey Yvonne Willson, whose spiritual evolution led to her being known at the end of her life as Yve-I Rastafari. Yve-I was a beloved mother, wife, grandmother, friend, artist, educator and leader in our community and our world. She passed away on March 13, 2006 at the age of 63.

Born Audrey Yvonne Willson, she grew up in the Fort Greene Projects of Brooklyn, New York, where she developed the quick wit and savvy nature for which she was known throughout her life. Living in New York, she met and married Bob Law in 1962. During that period, she became an active member of the Congress for Racial Equality, and was at the forefront of the Black Cultural/Consciousness movement, identifying strongly with her African heritage as an activist of that era and throughout her life.

In the decade that followed, Audrey began a new journey, moving to Silver Spring, Maryland and obtaining her Masters Degree in Education as well as her Montessori certification. These achievements began her lifelong devotion to the education and healthy development of children, which included her own young daughters, and ultimately led Audrey to create her own educational model.

Audrey's journey of intellectual, cultural and spiritual discovery soon led her to West Africa, where she immediately fell in love with the people, their land, and their struggles. Her proficiency in the Spanish, Twi, Amharic and Arabic languages allowed her to be a teacher and a student of the people she met there, and through her travels she forged human and spiritual ties that would last a lifetime.

In the years that followed, her newfound faith of Islam led her to change her name to Ameena, and during her time in Africa she met and married her second husband, an American named Daud Malik Watts. Upon her return to the United States, she rededicated herself to her life's mission of serving our young people by opening, with Daud, the Reston Montessori School in Virginia.

As she continued her spiritual exploration in the 1980s, she was led to return to her birth name of Audrey. During that time she also traveled frequently to the west coast and split her time between working in the non-profit sector and developing her own small business selling her delicious homemade apple pies.

As she neared the conclusion of her spiritual journey, she changed her name to Yve-I Rastafari, which was a reflection of her becoming a Rastafarian. In the 1990s, when she underwent this transition, she also moved to